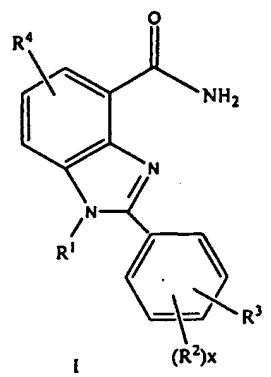
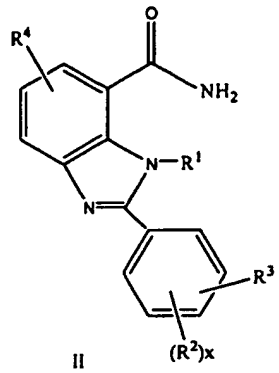
N THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II



I



II

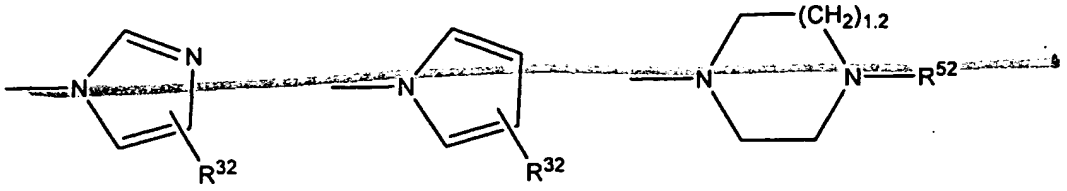
in which

R^1 is hydrogen, or branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5, where R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro, $NHCOR^{21}$, $NR^{22}R^{23}$, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, NH_2, CN, a straight or branched C_1-C_6-alkyl, OR^{21} or phenyl, it also being possible for the phenyl rings to be substituted by at most two radicals R^{24}, and R^{21} and R^{22} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and R^{23} is OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro or NH_2, and

x may be 0, 1 or 2 and

R^3 is -O-$(CH_2)_o$-$(CHR^{31})_m$-$(CH_2)_n$-G, where R^{31} is hydrogen, OH, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, m and o are, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2 and n is 1, 2, 3 or 4,



-D-$(F^1)_p$-$(E)_q$-$(F^2)_r$-G, where p, q and r may not simultaneously be 0, or is -E-$(D)_u$-$(F^2)_8$-$(G)_v$, it also being possible for the radical E to be substituted by one or two radicals A, and if v = 0, E is imidazole, pyrrole, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, or R^3 is B and

R^4 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, OH, nitro, CF_3, CN, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, NH-CO-R^{43}, or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, where R^{41} and R^{42} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl

and R^{43} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl or phenyl, and

D is S or O

E is phenyl, imidazole, pyrrole, thiophene, pyridine, pyrimidine, piperazine, pyrazine, furan, thiazole, isoxazole, pyrrolidine, pipendine, or trihydroazepine

and

F^1 is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it, also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl group and

F^2 is a chain of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, it also being possible for one carbon atom of the chain to carry an OH or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl group and

p may be 0 or 1

q may be 0 or 1, and

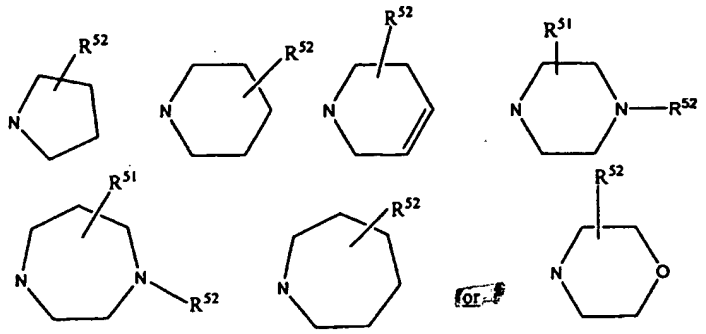
r may be 0 or 1 and

s may be 0 or 1

u may be 0 or I

v may be 0 or 1

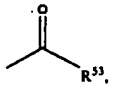
G may be $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or



~~and~~ where

R^{51} is hydrogen or branched. and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, or $(CH_2)_t$-K and

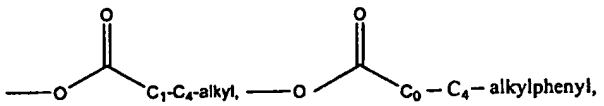
R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl, $COCH_3$, $COCF_3$,

 $-SO_2R^{53}$, $-(C=N)-R^{53}$, $-(C=N)-NHR^{53}$, or $-CO-NHR^{53}$

in which

R^{53} may be branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl, or branched or unbranched C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, where in the case of R^{52} and R^{53}, independently of one another, one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-

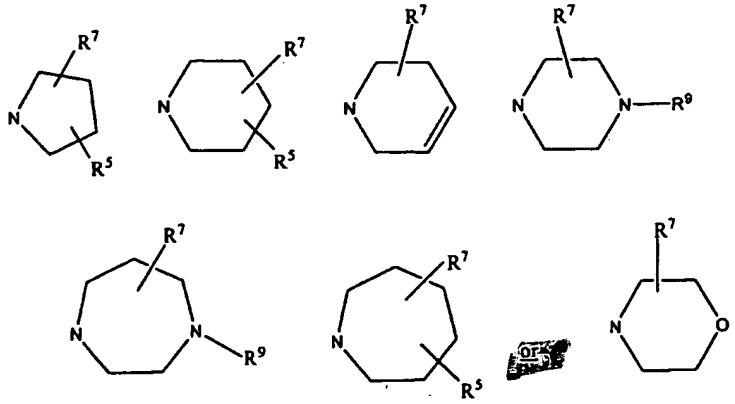
C_4-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, it also being. possible for the carbocycles of the radicals R^{52} and R^{53} independently of one another to carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, NH_2, CN, COOH, $COOC_1$-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkylamino, CCl_3, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, SO_2-C_1-C_4- alkyl, SO_2phenyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, $NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $NHSO_2$phenyl, S-C_1-C_4-alkyl,



CHO, CH_2-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -CH_2O-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, -CH_2OH, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, -SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NH- C_1-C_4-alkyl

or two radicals form a bridge -O-$(CH_2)_{1,2}$-O-,

B may be



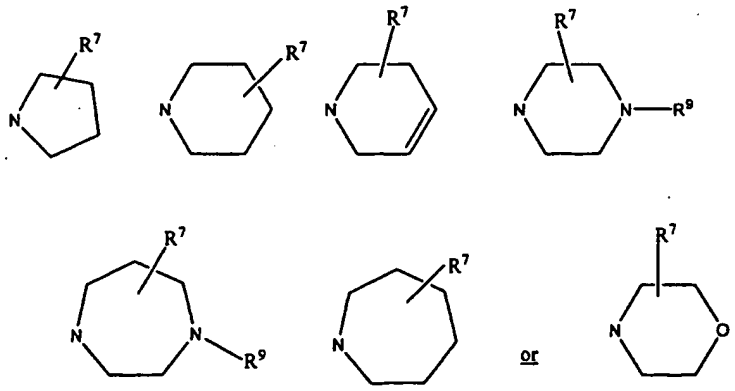
and

A may be hydrogen, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, NH_2, branched and unbranchedC_1-C_6-alkyl, CN, or NH-CO-R^{33}, where R^{33} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl and

t is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

K is phenyl, ~~which may carry at most two radicals or is~~ $NR^{k1}R^{k2}$ where R^{k1} and R^{k2} are as defined for R^{41} and R^{42} respectively, NH-C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine, 1, 2, 5, 6-tetrahydropyridine, morpholine, trihydroazepine, piperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C_1-C_6-alkyl, or homopiperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C_1-C_6-alkyl, and C_4-alkylphenyl, pyrrolidine, piperidine, 1,2, 5, 6-tetrahydropyridine, morpholine, trihydroazepine, piperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C_1-C_6-alkyl, or homopiperazine, which may also be substituted by an alkyl radical C_1-C_6-alkyl, and

R^5 may be hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, or NR^7R^9 and



and

R^7 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, or phenyl, it also being possible for the rings to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{71}, and

R^{71} is OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro, or NH_2, and

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl, or C_1-C_4-alkylphenyl, it also being possible for the ring to be substituted by up to two radicals R^{81}, and

R^{81} is OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, iodine, fluorine, CF_3, nitro, or NH_2 and

R^9 is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, CO-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $COCF_3$, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it being possible for one or two hydrogens of the C_1-C_6-alky radical to be substituted in each case by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl, and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: iodine, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, CF_3, or SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or disasteriomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^1 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5, where

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CF_3, CN, ~~$NR^{22}R^{23}$~~, NH-CO-R^{21}, OR^{21}, where

R^{21} ~~and R^{22} are, independently of one another,~~ is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

~~(R^{23} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and~~

R^3 is -O-$(CH_2)_o$-$(CHR^{31})_m$-$(CH_2)_n$-G, where

R^{31} is hydrogen, OH or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

m, o are, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2, and

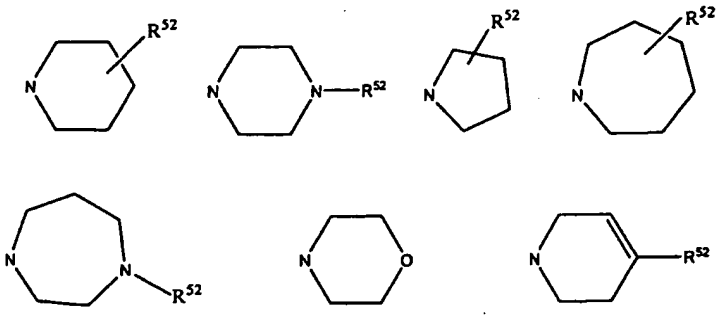
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, NH-CO-R^{43}, OR^{41} where

R^{41} and R^{42} are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^{43} is C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and

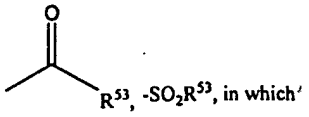
G is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the following radicals



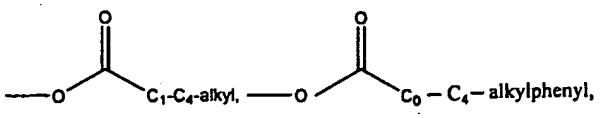
where

R^{51} is hydrogen or branched and unbranched C_1-C_6 alkyl, and

R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl phenyl,



R^{53} is branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl, branched or unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, where one hydrogen in the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical in R^{52} and R^{53} are, independently of one another, optionally substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, napthyl and phenyl, where the carbocycles of the R^{52} and R^{53} radicals may also, independently of one another, carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, NH_2, CN, COOH, $COOC_1$-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylamino,CCl_3, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl, SO_2 phenyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-C_1-C_4 alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, $NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $NHSO_2$phenyl, S-C_1-C_4-alkyl,



CHO, CH_2 -O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -CH_2O-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, -CH_2OH, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NH-C_1-C_4-alkyl or two radicals form a bridge -O-$(CH_2)_{1,2}$-O -,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or. disasteriomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^1 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5, where

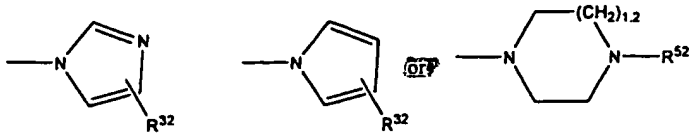
R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CF_3, CN, ~~$NR^{22}R^{23}$~~, NH-CO-R^{21}, OR^{21}, where

R^{21} ~~and R^{22} independently of one another are~~ is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl and

~~R^{23} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl~~

R^3 is



and

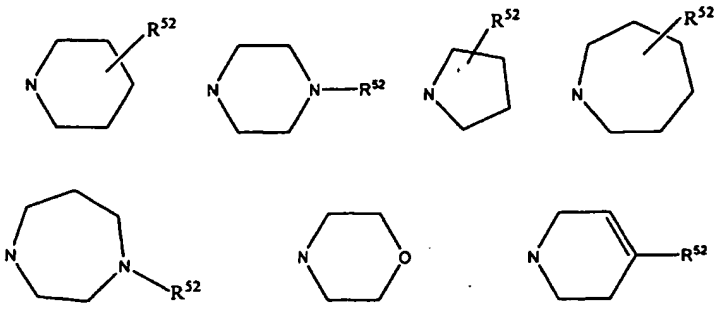
R^{32} is hydrogen and $-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-G$ where R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH and O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, m, o independently of one another are 0, 1 or 2 and n is 1, 2, 3 or 4, and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$, NH-CO-R^{43}, OR^{41}, where

R^{41} and R^{42} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl and

R^{43} is C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and,

G is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the radicals below



where

R^{51} is hydrogen and branched and unbranched and C_1-C_6-alkyl and

R^{52} is hydrogen, $COCH_3$, CO-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $COCF_3$, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl,it being possible for one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical to be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl and for the phenyl ring also to carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

or a tautomeric form, a possible enantiomeric or disasteriomeric form, a prodrug or pharmacologically tolerated salt thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 where R^2 is in position 3 and R^3 is in position 4 or R^2 is in position 4 and R^3 is in position 3 relative to the benzimidazole ring.

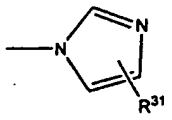
5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^1 and R^4 are hydrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where

R^2 is hydrogen, branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CN, NH_2, or O-C_1-C_4-alkyl.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where

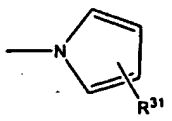
(i) for R^3 being



R^{31} is hydrogen or -$(CH_2)_w$-F, where

w is 1 or 2 and

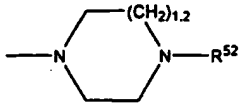
(ii) for R^3 being



R^{31} is hydrogen or -$(CH_2)_p$-G, where

p is 1 or 2 and

and (iii) for R^3 being



where R_{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, flourine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl,
nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^3 is -$D(F^1)_p$-$(E)_q$-$(F^2)_r$-G where D is θ ~~O~~ F^1 is a C_1-C_4 carbon chain, p is 1, q is 0 and r is 0.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1, where R^5 is a 6-membered ring and R^{52} is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

10 (Previously Presented) A drug comprising besides conventional vehicles and ancillary substances a compound as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a disorder in which pathologically elevated PARP activities occur, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 to a mammal suffering from said disorder.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a neurodegenerativedisease or involves neuronal damage.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the neurodegenerative disease or neuronal damage is induced by ischemia, trauma or massive bleeding.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is stroke and craniocerebral trauma.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage due to ischemia.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is epilepsy.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the kidneys after renal ischemia, damage caused by drug therapy or damage resulting after kidney transplants.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is damage to the heart after cardiac ischemia.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder a microinfarct.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is under vascularization of critically narrowed coronary arteries.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an acute myocardial infarct and damage during and after medical or mechanical lysis thereof.

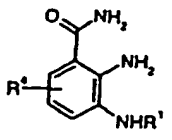
23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is a tumor or metastasis I thereof.

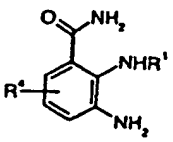
24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is sepsis of multi-organ failure.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is an immunological disease.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the disorder is diabetes mellitus.

27. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula XX or XXI





in which

R^4 = hydrogen and R^1 is defined in claim 1, and salts thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing compounds of the formula XX or XXI as claimed in claim 27 and salts thereof, which comprises converting the corresponding ester into the amide XX or XXI with hydrazine hydrate in an alcohol and subsequent reduction of the hydrazine with Raney nickel in a polar solvent.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn) An in vitro detection method for PARP inhibitors, which comprises

a) incubating an unsupported or supported polyADP-ribosylatable target with a reaction mixture comprising

a1) a PARP

a2) PARP activator; and

a3) a PARP inhibitor or an analyte in which at least one PARP inhibitor is suspected

b) carrying out the polyADP-ribosylation reaction: and

c) determining the polyADP-ribosylation of the target qualitatively or quantitatively using an anti-polyADP-ribose) antibody.

31. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein PARP is preincubated with the PARP activator and the PARP inhibitor or an analyte in which at least one PARP inhibitor is suspected before the polyADP ribosylation reaction is carried out.

32. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the polyADP-ribosylatable target is a histone protein.

33. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the PARP activator is activated DNA.

34. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the polyADP ribosylation reaction is started by adding NAD+.

35. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the unsupported target is labeled with an acceptor fluorophore.

36. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the polyADP ribosylation of the unsupported target is determined using anti-polyADP-ribose) antibody which is labeled with a donor fluorophore which is able to transfer energy to the acceptor fluorophore.

37. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 35, wherein the target is biotinylated histone, and the acceptor fluorophore is coupled thereto via avidin or streptavidin.

38. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the anti-poly (ADP-ribose) antibody carries a europium cryptate as donor fluorophore.

CLAIMS 27, 28 & 30-38 were cancelled in the amendment of Jan 16, 2002 (see page 21).